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**ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
VOCATIONAL  
REHABILITATION  
DEPARTMENT**

**FISCAL YEAR 1979-80**



**J. S. Dusenbury  
Commissioner**



## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Honorable Richard W. Riley  
Governor of South Carolina  
The State House  
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Sir:

I hereby submit to the General Assembly, through you, the annual report of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department for the fiscal year 1980, in compliance with the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended.

Behind the statistics found in this report are thousands of once disabled men and women who have been helped to have better lives through the services of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Yours very truly,

Joe S. Dusenbury  
Commissioner



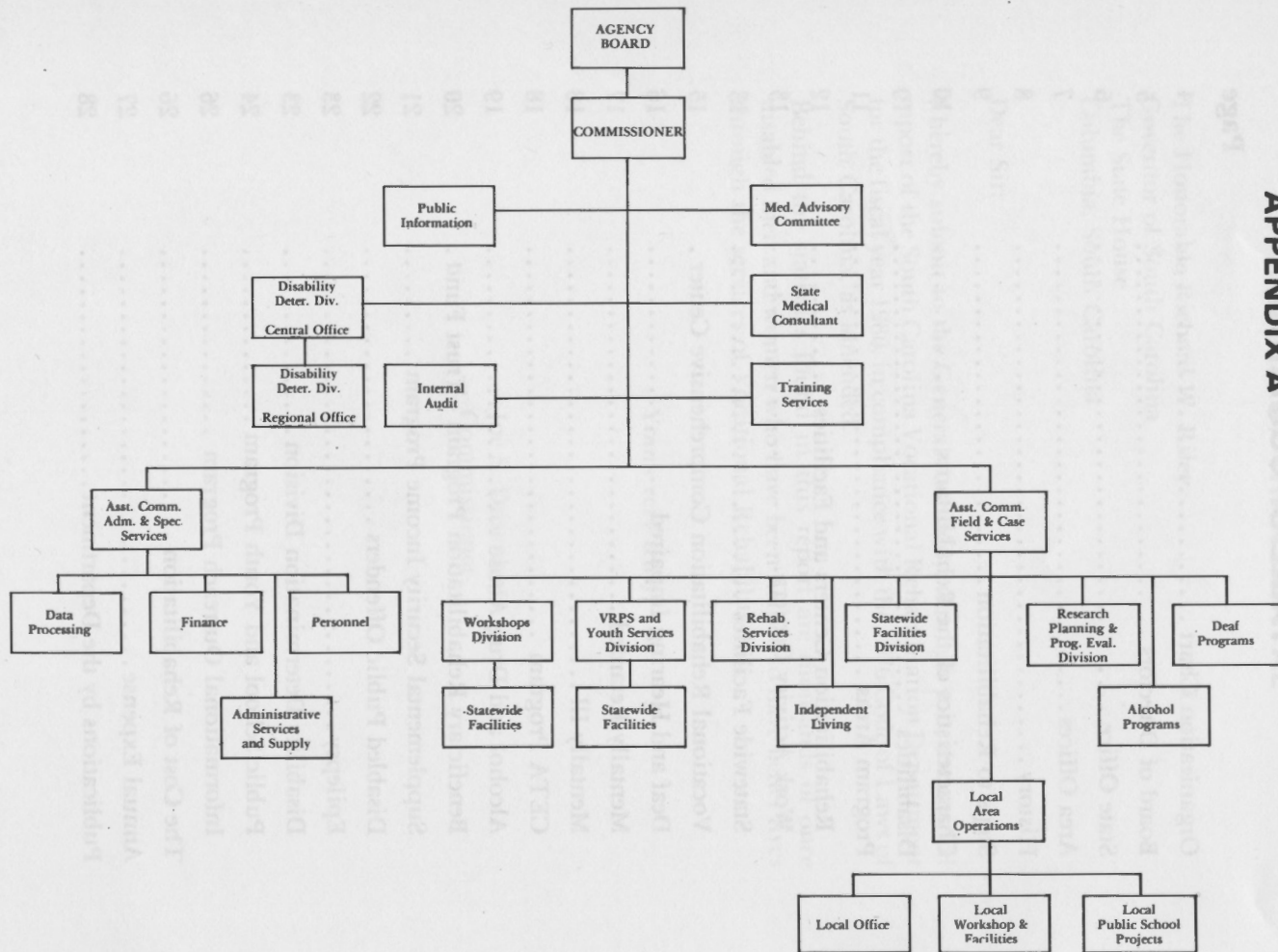
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Organization Chart .....	4
Board of Directors .....	5
State Office .....	6
Area Offices .....	7
History .....	8
Steps to Rehabilitation .....	9
Characteristics of the Rehabilitants .....	10
Disabilities .....	10
Program Areas .....	11
Rehabilitation Centers and Facilities .....	12
Work Activity Centers .....	13
Statewide Facilities .....	13
Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center .	15
Deaf and Hearing Impaired .....	16
Mentally Retarded .....	17
Mentally Ill .....	18
CETA Program .....	18
Alcohol and Drug Abuse .....	19
Beneficiary Rehabilitation Program - Trust Fund .	20
Supplemental Security Income Program .....	21
Disabled Public Offenders .....	22
Epilepsy .....	23
Disability Determination Division .....	23
Public School and Youth Program .....	24
Informational Outreach Program .....	26
The Cost of Rehabilitation .....	26
Annual Expense .....	27
Publications by the Department .....	28



# APPENDIX A

4



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E. Roy Stone, Jr., Greenville, Chairman

Dr. H.L. Laffitte, Allendale, Vice Chairman

Joe S. Dusenbury, Columbia, Secretary

Dr. T. James Bell, Jr., Hartsville

Harry W. Findley, Anderson

Daniel E. Martin, Charleston

John A. Montgomery, Columbia

J. Hewlette Wasson, Laurens

**Joe S. Dusenbury .....Commissioner**  
**Robert E. Brabham, Ph.D..... Assistant Commissioner, Field**  
**and Case Services**  
**T.E. Ringer, Jr. .... Assistant Commissioner, Administration and**  
**Special Services**

Charles S. Chandler, Ph.D. ... Supervisor, Planning and Research  
Thomas C. Hadwin.....Supervisor, Public School and Youth  
Programs  
William D. Leitner .....Senior Program Specialist, Workshops  
Vincent Rhodes, Jr. .... Supervisor, Statewide Facilities  
Raynold Stoudemayer ..... Supervisor, Rehabilitation Services  
Richard A. Vandiver Director, Disability Determination Division  
Allen T. Gantt .....Personnel Director  
Larry M. Harrelson ..... Senior Program Specialist for the  
Deaf and Hearing Impaired  
Lyn D. Johnson ..... Public Information Specialist  
P. Charles LaRosa, Jr. .... Coordinator, Governor's Committee  
on Employment of the Handicapped  
Edward H. McMillion ..... Director of Staff Development  
and Training  
Ben N. Miller, M.D. .... Medical Consultant

Raymond Mizell ..... 855 York Street, N.E., Aiken  
Robert E. Pettigrew ..... 1103 North Fant Street, Anderson  
W.B. Creel ..... 4360 Dorchester Road, Charleston  
Larry C. Bryant ..... 1300 Boston Avenue, West Columbia  
John C. Winn ..... 3009 Fourth Avenue, Conway  
H.B. Powell, Jr. .... 1550 West Evans Street, Florence  
O.D. Parker .. Academy Building, 2 Hampton Avenue, Greenville  
W.H. Turnley ..... 109 Oak Avenue, Greenwood  
W.J. Chapman ..... 328 South Fifth Street, Hartsville  
John A. Lybrand ..... Highway 21-178 Bypass, Orangeburg  
H. Wehman Sieling ..... 756 Cherry Road, Rock Hill  
C. Martin Isetts ..... 353 South Church Street, Spartanburg  
Emmett W. Tolson, Jr. .... Route 8, Highway 15 North, Sumter  
William B. Rogers .. Colleton County Industrial Park, Walterboro



## Disability Determination Regional Offices

F. Howard Hall ..... Regional Supervisor, Charleston  
 Frank G. Honea, Jr. .... Regional Supervisor, Columbia  
 Rex L. Salley, Jr. .... Regional Supervisor, Greenville

*Follow-up* -- Every client receives follow-up to insure that his rehabilitation is successful and that both he and his employer are satisfied.

## HISTORY

The Vocational Rehabilitation program began in South Carolina in 1927, as a division of the South Carolina Department of Education, with one full-time and two part-time employees. It was not until 1957 that the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department was established as a separate state agency. Since the beginning of the program, 191,703 disabled people have been placed in gainful employment following rehabilitation services.

The Department has grown to over 1,100 employees with 14 area offices and 11 satellite offices to serve clients in all locations of the state. In addition, rehabilitation centers are located near most area offices to provide evaluation and training to clients. Evaluation centers are also located within other state institutions, and mobile evaluation units provide services to handicapped persons living in rural areas of South Carolina. Services have been improved and expanded by setting up specialized facilities in cooperation with public and private groups and organizations. Coordinated services in special facilities are considered to be one of the main keys to enabling thousands of disabled individuals to become self-sufficient members of society.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 placed emphasis on services to the severely disabled. These cases usually require a wider range of comprehensive rehabilitation services over an extended period of time. In many cases, the severity of the disability makes the individual unsuited to many kinds of employment; so placement may take more time.

In spite of these factors, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has been very successful in placing the severely disabled in employment following provision of services through the Department.

1460 Boston Avenue, West Columbia  
John C. Winn ..... 3009 Fourth Avenue, Conway  
H. B. Powell, Jr. .... 1550 West Evans Street, Florence  
O. D. Parker .. Academy Building, 2 Hampton Avenue, Greenville  
W. H. Turnley ..... 109 Oak Avenue, Greenwood  
W. J. Chapman ..... 328 South Fifth Street, Hartsville  
John A. Lybrand ..... Highway 21-178 Bypass, Orangeburg  
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## STEPS TO REHABILITATION

There are six basic steps to the process of rehabilitation, each performing a vital function in changing the client into a useful and productive citizen, while transforming the individual into a proud member of society willing to accept his share of rights and responsibilities.

*Diagnostic Services* -- Through comprehensive procedures, an evaluation of the client's medical, social, psychological and vocational needs can be determined.

*Counseling and Guidance* -- Counseling is a continuous service provided all clients through the entire rehabilitation process. The counselor develops, coordinates and integrates services according to the individual needs of his client, his interests and aptitudes and the employment outlook in his community.

*Artificial Appliances* -- Prosthetic and orthotic devices may be provided when needed to prepare a client for employment. This service is based on financial need.

*Training* -- The disabled person has a much better chance of getting a job if he has a work skill; therefore, many disabled people are trained or retrained in skills that they can perform despite their condition. Necessary maintenance, transportation and supplies are provided based on financial need.

*Placement* -- No client is considered rehabilitated until he is placed in a job suited to his ability...that is the goal of all rehabilitation services.

Not all clients require all services, but professional counseling, evaluation and guidance are provided ALL clients in order that they may have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential.

*Follow-up* -- Every client receives follow-up to insure that his rehabilitation is successful and that both he and his employer are satisfied.



## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REHABILITANTS

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department was successful in rehabilitating 10,467 clients during 1980.

At the time of referral:

78.1% were unemployed

13.3% were in tax supported institutions

55.4% were dependent on family and friends for livelihood

62.9% had less than 12th grade education

Of the 10,467 clients rehabilitated, 50.5% were male; and 55.3% were White, 44.5% black and .2% other.

## DISABILITIES

Rehabilitation of the handicapped has paid off as the disabled become productive. Services provided by the Vocational Rehabilitation Department are extended to persons handicapped by many types of disabilities.

The 10,467 rehabilitants served by Vocational Rehabilitation in 1980 had these disabilities

Type of Disability	Number of Rehabilitants
Blood Disease .....	39
Speech Impairments .....	46
Absence of Limbs .....	131
Respiratory Diseases .....	145
Epilepsy and Nervous Disorders.....	202
Cancer .....	224
Visual Impairments.....	244
Allergy, Endocrine Disorders .....	400
Hearing Impairments .....	469
Heart and Circulatory Conditions ...	541
Genito-Urinary System Disorders....	681
Digestive System Disorders .....	1,056
Mental Retardation .....	1,299
Orthopedic Deformity.....	1,344
Mental Illness .....	3,296
Other Disabling Conditions .....	350

# Rehabilitation Centers and Facilities

The Department's centers and facilities are designed to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped. The Department's centers and facilities are designed to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped. The Department's centers and facilities are designed to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped.

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## PROGRAM AREAS

The Department's centers and facilities are designed to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped. The Department's centers and facilities are designed to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped. The Department's centers and facilities are designed to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped.

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## Statewide Facilities

The Department's centers and facilities are designed to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped. The Department's centers and facilities are designed to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped. The Department's centers and facilities are designed to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped.

Such facilities are located as follows:

\* Florence

\* Columbia

\* Charleston

\* Greenville

\* Anderson

\* Spartanburg

\* Rock Hill

\* Conway

\* Greenwood

\* York

\* Chester

\* Darlington

\* Beaufort

\* Lenoir

\* Jones

\* Wayne

\* Richmond

\* Wake

\* Franklin

\* North

\* South

\* Edgecombe

\* Chatham

\* Effingham

\* Glynn

\* Liberty

\* McIntosh

\* Muscogee

\* Pickens

\* Saluda

\* Sumter

\* Transylvania

\* Union

\* Warren

\* York

\* Chester

\* Darlington

\* Beaufort

\* Lenoir

\* Jones

\* Wayne

\* Richmond

\* Wake

\* Franklin

\* North

\* South

\* Edgecombe

\* Chatham

\* Effingham

\* Glynn

## Rehabilitation Centers and Facilities

The rehabilitation centers and facilities of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department are designed to assist in the coordination, development and provision of comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped citizens of the State of South Carolina.

A Vocational Rehabilitation center has as its main emphasis the provision of comprehensive evaluation and adjustment training services. Vocational evaluation, including I.Q., aptitude, interest and dexterity testing, as well as personal, social and work adjustment status and functioning is provided by the staff of the facility. The center also provides comprehensive adjustment training, which may include personal grooming classes, world of work groups, activities of daily living classes, work adjustment through the utilization of contract activities, academic classes and other services as required. These centers serve all disability groups.

The Department operates a network of rehabilitation centers located in strategic areas throughout the state. These fourteen community-based centers in addition to a special project in industry are placing emphasis on the rehabilitation of the severely disabled with an array of services geared to meet the individual needs of the handicapped clients.

New rehabilitation centers have been completed in some areas and plans are under way for construction of more centers. The new centers which are owned and operated by the Department, are located in Charleston, Greenville, Orangeburg, Walterboro, Sumter, Conway Aiken, Spartanburg and Columbia.

Other centers in the state are operating within rented space, which has been adapted for the most effective and efficient delivery of adjustment, evaluation and training services to handicapped individuals.

### Centers are operated in the following locations:

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| *Aiken        | *Conway     |
| *Anderson     | *Greenwood  |
| Bennettsville | *Orangeburg |
| Charleston    | *Rock Hill  |
| Columbia      | Spartanburg |
| *Florence     | *Sumter     |



Greenville

\*Walterboro

\*Work activity centers for the severely mentally retarded in these facilities.

### **Work Activity Centers**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation have, through a cooperative agreement, set up work activity centers in an attempt to provide improved services to the severely mentally retarded of the state.

The work activity center program began with two centers, one in Anderson and one in Rock Hill, in 1973, with initial funding under the Developmental Disabilities Act. All are now operated jointly by Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Mental Retardation. Centers are now in operation in Greenwood, Aiken, Orangeburg, Walterboro, Conway, Florence and Sumter as well. Future plans provide for centers in all of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centers in the state.

Services offered in these projects include evaluation, personal and social adjustment, work adjustment, on-the-job training, as well as daily living classes.

The program is designed to take the severely mentally retarded population out of institutions and provide them with the training they need in order to take their places in society. These citizens will, hopefully, be able to return to the community and earn a livelihood as a result of the program. Because of the severity of their disabilities, these handicapped people usually require a longer transition period before their employment.

The work activity centers served 254 severely mentally retarded clients during fiscal year 79-80.

### **Statewide Facilities**

In an effort to provide Vocational Rehabilitation services to as many different disability groups as possible, the Department has established projects within a number of facilities around the state operated by other state agencies and working in cooperation with other agencies.

Such facilities are located as follows:

Morris Village Alcohol and Drug Addiction Center, Columbia  
 Holmesview Alcoholic Center, Greenville  
 Palmetto Center, Florence  
 Cedar Spring Facility for the Deaf, Spartanburg  
 Evaluation and Adjustment Center for the Deaf, Opportunity  
 School, West Columbia  
 Vocational Rehabilitation Evaluation Center, Opportunity  
 School, West Columbia  
 Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center, West  
 Columbia  
 Dill Beckman Vocational Rehabilitation Facility, Ladson  
 Midlands Rehabilitation Facility, Columbia  
 Whitten Village Rehabilitation Facility, Clinton  
 Medical University Hospital Facilities, Charleston

Psychiatric Rehabilitation  
 Speech and Hearing Facility  
 Cardio-Vascular Facility  
 Peripheral Vascular Facility  
 Epilepsy Rehabilitation Facility  
 Referral Unit  
 Amputee Clinic

#### Public Offender Facilities

Reception and Evaluation Center, Columbia  
 Manning Correctional Institution, Columbia  
 Watkins Pre-Release Center, Columbia  
 Correctional Institution for Women, Columbia  
 Wateree Correctional Institution, Boykin  
 Blue Ridge Community Pre-Release Center, Greenville  
 MacDougall Youth Correction Center, Ridgeville  
 State Park Health Center, Columbia  
 Crafts-Farrow Hospital Rehabilitation Facility, Columbia  
 G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, Columbia  
 State Hospital Rehabilitation Facility, Columbia  
 William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, Columbia  
 S.C. Department of Youth Services, Columbia

## **Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center**

Severely handicapped clients in South Carolina have had some difficulty in the past in getting from one location to another in order to receive necessary services.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center in West Columbia has helped in alleviating this problem. The statewide facility, is the only residential facility of its kind operated by the Department to provide services to its severely disabled clients.

The Center provides a program of services which is designed to meet the individualized needs of the severely disabled. The services are coordinated between the Rehabilitation team at the facility and the Vocational Rehabilitation counselor at the local level to ensure that the clients of the Department receive maximum utilization of the service delivery system established at the Center.

The Center can accommodate 35 clients at any one time, including residents and out-patients. Services at the facility include physical therapy, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy and activities of daily living.

In addition, the Center is equipped and staffed to provide gait and mobility training, speech and hearing services, vocational and psychological evaluation and support services which consist of recreation, dining and residential care. The uniqueness of the Center lies in the provision of these services in one location, thus eliminating the necessity of transporting Vocational Rehabilitation clients throughout the community or state for needed individual services which can now be provided at the Comprehensive Center. However, any services not provided at the Center can be coordinated with other agencies, facilities, and organizations in order to provide maximum services to meet the individualized needs of the severely disabled individuals.

The Comprehensive Center is staffed to provide twenty-four hour services as needed. The barrier free building includes dormitory facilities for eighteen residents and, by residing in such a facility, clients can learn to become more self-sufficient in taking care of their daily needs. This, in turn, makes them more suitable for employment when they return to their communities within the state.

During fiscal year 1980, 177 clients received services through the Comprehensive Center.



## Deaf and Hearing Impaired

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired is composed of thirty-three (33) professional and nonprofessional staff members located strategically throughout South Carolina to serve only the hearing impaired. Eleven (11) of the professional staff are counselors serving from two to six (2-6) counties each or employed in facilities for the deaf.

The Adult Deaf Evaluation and Training Center, operated in cooperation with the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School in West Columbia, serves severely disabled deaf individuals from across the state, with a full-time psychologist as liaison between the Vocational Rehabilitation state psychological staff and deaf clients. Services being provided at the Adult Deaf Center include guidance and counseling, evaluation, personal, social and work adjustment training, speech therapy, communication training (sign language and finger-spelling), recreation programs and job training.

During fiscal year 1979-80, clients were primarily referred by physicians, schools for the physically handicapped, artificial appliance companies, educational institutions, interested individuals, deaf consumers and other social service related industries.

Cases accepted for services under the program include the following:

	Served	Rehab- ilitated
Deafness, unable to talk	376	48
Deaf, able to talk	177	41
Other Hearing Impairments	1307	380
Total	1860	469

The Vocational Rehabilitation facility located on the campus and in cooperation with the South Carolina School for the Deaf continues to work with the deaf students while they are attending Cedar Spring. Upon graduation the students are transferred to their respective home areas and services are continued until completion by the specialty counselors.

A continued effort is being made to provide adequate services through the local speech and hearing centers throughout the state and with the medical community. Also, more involvement with the deaf community and their organizations has continued to provide a

channel of communication between the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the hearing impaired population.

**Multi-Handicapped Program** — During the past year, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation department continued its cooperation with the South Carolina School for the Deaf, with the multi-handicapped unit housed on the grounds at Cedar Spring. The purpose of this innovative program is to evaluate the vocational needs of the multi-handicapped students and to provide services to maximize their future employment goals based on individual capabilities. These students have two or more handicaps and are being served by a specialty trained staff in cooperation with the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind.

**Life Functioning Skills Program** — A modular unit is located on the grounds of the Dill D. Beckman Comprehensive Center in West Columbia for the purpose of providing supplemental adjustment programs which serve as a transitional phase from the traditional vocational rehabilitation program into community living. The unit is architecturally barrier-free and serves a full range of severely disabled clients with a primary emphasis on the deaf and hearing impaired. the primary objective is to create awareness of the world around us and to develop the handicapped individual's ability to live independently.

### **Mentally Retarded**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department also provides services to severely mentally retarded individuals in three state institutions. These services are geared to benefit mentally retarded people who need residential services rather than local community services. These are carried out in coordination with the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation.

Services provided to these clients include vocational evaluation, adjustment training, community resident placement, job placement, training and follow-up services to ensure that the client is progressing well in his new lifestyle.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Department of Mental Retardation have developed community residences within the state for those clients being transferred from institutions into competitive employment. This program has allowed for an extension of vocational rehabilitation services within the Vocational Rehabilitation units at the institutions.



The Vocational Rehabilitation Unit at Whitten Village is now serving clients from the institution population. Midlands Center is a statewide facility, whereby clients are referred by Vocational Rehabilitation counselors in other areas for an individualized comprehensive program of services to meet the individual needs of the clients. At Coastal Center, the Vocational Rehabilitation unit is providing services to the institutional population as well as reaching the communities through several public schools. This attempt has allowed for a delivery of services that would otherwise have been unavailable for the retarded citizens in that area of the state.

During fiscal year 1979-80, there were 8,482 clients with the disability of mental retardation, of whom 1,299 were closed as successfully rehabilitated.

### **Mentally Ill**

The Department also served a large number of mentally ill individuals referred from institutional programs and a wide variety of community agencies.

Cooperative programs have been developed with the Department of Mental Health to serve individuals in the State Hospital Rehabilitation Facility, William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, Crafts-Farrow Hospital Rehabilitation Facility and the G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital.

During fiscal year 1979-80, there were 13,415 clients served and 2,499 rehabilitated who had been diagnosed as mentally ill, excluding those with alcoholism, drug addiction and drug abuse.

### **CETA Program**

During Fiscal Year 1979-80 the Vocational Rehabilitation Department was one of the three major sub-contractors providing services to CETA participants who were involved in the various programs sponsored by CETA. The other two state sub-contractors which worked cooperatively with the Vocational Rehabilitation Department were Employment Service and Technical Education.

This program is funded through the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) under the Department of Labor. It is designed to provide employment and training along with other individualized



services to assist the economically disadvantaged and unemployed population of the state. The goal of the program is to allow individuals to receive services which will better prepare them to enter the labor market.

A number of these individuals under the CETA program have physical and mental disabilities, for which vocational rehabilitation services are appropriate.

Full-time Vocational Rehabilitation counselors and evaluators serve CETA enrollees in the provision of basic medical evaluation, minor medical services and assessment services statewide.

Sixteen assessment centers are available for ascertaining the CETA enrollee's vocational potential. In addition, two motorized units provide evaluation services to clients in remote areas of the state.

Approximately \$1,514,119 was made available to the Vocational Rehabilitation Department for services and equipment through the CETA program enabling the Department to provide 5,625 basic medical evaluations and minor medical services and 8,671 assessments to CETA participants.

### **Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

During the 1979-80 fiscal year, Vocational Rehabilitation served 2,993 clients handicapped by alcohol abuse and 647 handicapped by drug abuse. 653 alcoholics and 144 drug abusers were successfully rehabilitated.

Two treatment centers administered by Vocational Rehabilitation provide in-patient therapy to the alcoholic. Palmetto Center in Florence served residents this past year, while Holmesview Center, located in Greenville served 343 clients. Both centers support the referring Vocational Rehabilitation field counselors who remain responsible for followup services once the client returns to his home community.

Vocational Rehabilitation counselors and mental health counselors use the Earle E. Morris Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center for clients needing in-patient therapy for the misuse of drugs and alcohol. A Vocational Rehabilitation unit at the Center provides clients a comprehensive vocational assessment plus personal and social adjustment services.

In July, 1979, the Counseling and Referral Elective (CARE) program began its seventh year of operation. This program assists troubled state and local government employees as well as those in private industry, when their work performance is affected by alcohol or other problems. During the past fiscal year, 178 received services through this program, after having been referred by their employers or as result of self-referrals.

Although no longer funded through NIAAA training grant, Palmetto Center continues to offer the Community Training Seminar for local community professional and lay persons upon request.

### **Beneficiary Rehabilitation Program - Trust Fund**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has made continuous progress in serving the Social Security Disability Beneficiary since the inception of the Trust Fund Program in 1965.

Congress amended the Social Security Act at that time by setting up a trust fund which amounted to 1% of all money that was being paid out to disability beneficiaries, to be set aside for 100% allocation to state vocational rehabilitation agencies for the purpose of providing services to selected beneficiaries who meet special selection criteria. States are now funded based on the accomplishment of individual trust fund programs in the return of beneficiaries to the labor market earning on a level where benefit termination might be expected.

The criteria which the trust fund counselor uses are aimed toward the rehabilitation of the selected beneficiary to a level of medical improvement and/or a level of income which would result in the beneficiary no longer being eligible for, and in need of social security disability benefits. The social security beneficiary is served by specialty counselors who cover the entire state.

A person is considered eligible for Disability Social Security Benefits if he is found to have a severe impairment which prevents work and which has lasted or is expected to last for 12 months or longer. The beneficiary who is found to meet special Trust Fund Selection Criteria does not have to meet economic need requirements to receive vocational rehabilitation services provided from Trust Funds. The beneficiary whose disability is permanent and cannot be improved will receive a nine-month trial work period if he is able to find a work situation that is suited for one with limitations imposed by such a disability. At the end of the nine months of work, the client



will be re-evaluated and a decision will be made concerning his ability to continue work. If it is determined that the beneficiary is able to do substantial gainful work, he will be given three additional months of benefits, or a total of 12 months, then will be terminated.

Should he later become unable to continue employment, immediate resumption of benefits will be provided. These incentives give a beneficiary every opportunity to attempt to return to work no matter how severe the limitations are. If the beneficiary recovers medically, the trial work period does not apply.

During Federal fiscal year 1979 South Carolina rehabilitated 317 Social Security beneficiaries who met special selection criteria.

### **Supplemental Security Income Program**

Beginning on January 1, 1974, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department initiated a program under an agreement with the federal government. The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program went into effect at that time, with the state no longer giving welfare assistance to the needy aged, blind and disabled. Prior to this time, the South Carolina Department of Social Services provided payments to this group.

Under the new program the federal government assumed the responsibility of payments to the needy aged, blind and disabled with the Disability Determination Division - a division of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department -- charged with the responsibility of making the decision on eligibility for the disabled in South Carolina.

Since the beginning of this program a number of these "disabled" people have been referred to the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department for services. The result of the services provided was that some of these "disabled" were returned to gainful employment.

SSI payments are made to the disabled based on economic need. When clients are placed in employment and they begin to earn a salary, their economic situation changes, and payments to these clients are adjusted accordingly. The goal of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department is to reduce or remove SSI payments to clients. Clients who are placed in employment are often able to earn a salary greater than the SSI benefits which they would receive.



The SSI Program provides for a nine month trial work period. During this period, barring medical recovery, a determination as to the individual's capacity to engage in Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) will be deferred until the end of the work period. An SSI recipients earnings during a trial work period are counted in computing the payment level. Another rehabilitation incentive is the "self-support plan" -- any income and/or resources necessary to fulfilling an approved self-support plan may be disregarded in computing payment amounts.

There are five SSI specialty counselors and eleven combination SSDI-SSI counselors in the state at this time, but all areas of the state are served by these specialty counselors. They are located in Anderson, Greenville, Spartanburg, Rock Hill, Conway, Florence, Sumter, Columbia, Aiken, Charleston, Walterboro, Orangeburg, Hartsville, Greenwood and Beaufort.

During fiscal year 1978-79 the Department rehabilitated 121 Supplemental Security Income recipients who met special selection criteria, of whom 77 were rehabilitated as earning the SGA level.

### **Disabled Public Offenders**

Last year the Vocational Rehabilitation Department served approximately 5,923 public offenders and rehabilitated 1,624. The Public Offender Project provides rehabilitation services to the public offender within the institution and to the ex-offender in the community who is deemed eligible because of a physical or mental disability. Services provided on a needs basis consist of assessment, counseling and guidance, placement and follow-up.

The Department is presently working with a majority of the public offenders who are eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services. Through close coordination between the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Department of Corrections, the project is endeavoring to provide a better service delivery system to those public offenders eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services.

The South Carolina Department of Corrections now operates seven work release centers and two pre-release centers. The Vocational Rehabilitation Department is included in most of these centers to assist the client in his exit to the community, as well as follow-up services once the client has returned to the community. The Vocational Rehabilitation counselor plays an integral part in

assisting the public offender in his reintegration into the community.

With the vocational rehabilitation services provided while the public offender is incarcerated and the services provided after his release, a disabled public offender receives the reinforcement necessary to ensure his successful rehabilitation.

The follow-up program for these clients who are deemed eligible for vocational rehabilitation services is now carried by nine counselors located in strategic areas of the state who serve primarily those clients who have been transferred from various institutions within the correctional setting.

### **Epilepsy**

A concentrated effort is being made through the Epilepsy Rehabilitation Facility at the Medical University Hospital in Charleston to provide the necessary services for epileptic clients. The facility was set up as a result of a grant through the Developmental Disabilities Act, specifically for these clients who need a well-coordinated delivery of services, usually for a longer period of time than many other rehabilitation clients. A major portion of their rehabilitation deals with educating the client and his family on the nature of epilepsy.

Last year 810 clients with a disability of epilepsy received services through the Department. This number includes clients from other areas of the state who are served by rehabilitation counselors in their home communities as well as 132 clients served by a full-time rehabilitation counselor at the Medical University facility.

### **DISABILITY DETERMINATION DIVISION**

The Disability Determination Division has the responsibility for processing claims for disability benefits filed under the provisions of the Social Security Act of 1954 and under the Supplemental Security Income Program which went into effect January 1, 1974. Under both programs, benefits may be paid to disabled individuals who are unable to engage in substantial gainful activity by reason of their medical impairments. The Disability Division is charged with the responsibility for ensuring that sound medical evidence is obtained and that the decision to allow or deny benefits meets all of the requirements of the Social Security regulations and the law.



The Disability Determination Division of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department has 154 full-time and 7 part-time staff members, including 9 full-time and 6 part-time physicians trained in a wide range of specialties. The Division has Regional Offices in Columbia, Greenville, and Charleston. All professional personnel are trained in the evaluation of medical and vocational factors and the disability decisions is made jointly by professional Disability Examiners and physicians.

In addition to determining disability, each claim is reviewed to determine if the individual has rehabilitation potential regardless of whether or not benefits are allowed. All individuals who are felt to have such potential are referred to counselors with the general program or the Trust Fund Program of Social Security.

During FY 79, a large number of benefit recipients who had been referred to Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors for services were successfully rehabilitated. This represents a significant savings in government spending, but in addition, the individuals have gained personal satisfaction as a result of their re-entry into the mainstream of society as contributing members.

During the past fiscal year, the Disability Determination Division processed 50,713 claims for disability benefits. As of June, 1979 monthly benefits for Social Security Disability beneficiaries totaled more than \$17,545,000. There are also more than 42,000 Supplemental Security Disability beneficiaries in the state receiving monthly payments totaling almost \$10 million. In addition to the actual benefits received by South Carolinians, the program resulted in expenditures of over \$1,500,000 for medical evaluation services for fiscal year 1980.

### **Public School and Youth Program**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has a cooperative arrangement with the State Department of Education and local school districts in many areas of the state to provide rehabilitation services to eligible physically, mentally, and emotionally handicapped students in the secondary schools.

The services rendered in this program are the same type provided to other vocational rehabilitation clients. They include counseling and guidance, as well as medical and vocational evaluation to determine the type of work for which the student will be best suited upon completion of his formal education.



A program of services is also available for youth out of school. These individuals may be returned to school, placed in on-the-job training, or placed in some specialized vocational training program in keeping with their abilities and interests.

The Department also cooperates with the Department of Youth Services and the Department of Juvenile Placement and Aftercare in providing services to youth under their supervision. This effort has in many areas, resulted in the use of Vocational Rehabilitation services as an alternative to incarceration.

The Department has established twelve satellite workshops which operate within existing VR-PS programs. This work component has provided valuable work experience in a competitive production environment as a part of the student's overall curriculum. Students also receive Carnegie units for their participation in the work adjustment program.

There were 14,025 physically, mentally, and emotionally handicapped students served through the public school and youth programs across the state last year, of whom 2,195 were successfully rehabilitated.

There are VR-PS programs located in the following areas; Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Batesburg, Beaufort, Campobello, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Columbia, Conway, Dentsville, Dillon, Florence, Graniteville, Greenville, Greenwood, Kershaw, Kingstree, Lancaster, Laurens, Lexington, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Rock Hill, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, and York.

### **Informational Outreach Program Governor's Committee on Employment Of The Handicapped**

Through a new program funded by a Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) grant, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has implemented an informational outreach program. The program is designed to create statewide interest in rehabilitation of handicapped citizens and to promote their employment in the communities around the state.

Additional Vocational Rehabilitation staff members are developing and implementing this program by organizing volunteer groups into Mayor's Committees on Employment of the Handicapped.

The Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped has assumed the responsibility of this program and has continued to work through Mayor's Committees around the state to educate business and industry leaders on such topics as affirmative action for employing the handicapped and architectural barrier removal. Seminars have been held in a number of areas around the state on these topics during the past year.

The Governor's Committees and Mayor's Committees participated in a program with the S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism during the past year. Thirteen state parks were surveyed for accessibility for the physically handicapped, and results will be made a part of recommendations to correct those problem areas in the parks which would restrict use by the handicapped.

## THE COST OF REHABILITATION

Supporting unemployed disabled persons is a continuous cost year after year. The cost for rehabilitation per client was only \$2,593 last year -- only a fraction of the annual cost per case at many state institutions such as prisons, hospitals and treatment centers.

## ANNUAL EXPENSE

The total operating expense of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department during fiscal year 1979-80 was \$33,998,653. Of this amount \$32,285,308 or 95.0% was spent for "services to individuals." This includes counseling and placement of clients, including professional and clerical salaries, travel, communications, supplies, rent, office maintenance and equipment. These monies are spent also on diagnostic procedures, surgery, treatment, prosthetic appliances, hospitalization and convalescent care, training, equipment and licenses for clients.

The remaining \$1,713,345 or 5.0% was spent on administration of the Department. This includes administrative and clerical salaries, travel, communication, supplies, public information, rent, office maintenance and equipment.

A comparison of expenditures for fiscal year 1978-79 and 1979-80 shows:

	FY 1978-79	FY 1979-80
Administration	\$ 1,590,073	\$ 1,713,345
Basic VR Services Program	20,163,969	20,956,463
Workshop Production	1,339,130	2,013,374
CETA	958,513	1,234,295
Work Activity Centers	482,872	579,657
Special Projects	2,434,776	2,508,130
Disability Determination Division	<u>4,286,226</u>	<u>4,993,389</u>
Total Operating Expense	\$31,255,559	\$33,998,653

In addition to the \$33,998,653 for operating expenses, \$1,228,577 was spent on capital improvements making total expenditures \$35,227,230 for FY 1979-80.



## **PUBLICATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT**

**Annual Report - South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department**

**Annual Report - South Carolina Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped**

**Breakthrough - A pictorial, graphic and factual review of each fiscal year**

**New Horizons - a newsletter**

**From Dependence to Independence**

**Your Handbook of Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

**Counseling and Referral Elective**

**Palmetto Center**

**Holmesview Alcoholic Center**

**Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center**

**Supplemental Security Income**

**Programs for Deaf and Hearing Impaired**

**Has Disability Got You Down?**

**50 Years of Service to the Handicapped**

**Client Handbook (Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center)**

**Independent Living Program**

**Ability Counts Writing Contest**

**Special Licensing and Parking for the Handicapped**

**Handicapped Parking Tickets**

